

## Cohen Denies Any Film Deal With Enright

No Agreement Whereby Arrests for Unlawful Admission of Minors to Theaters Were To Be Held Up

Mrs. O'Grady Criticized

Children Torn From Parents at Doors of Show Houses by Detectives, Is Charge

Sydney S. Cohen, head of the motion picture theater owners' organization, denied yesterday that he had any agreement with Commissioner Enright, as charged by Mrs. Ellen O'Grady, whereby arrests for unlawful admission of minors were not to be made until Mr. Cohen had been consulted.

"I called on Commissioner Enright not to enter into any agreement, but to make a complaint against the unreasonable actions of Mrs. O'Grady's detectives," he said. "I told the Commissioner that children were being torn away from their parents or other proper guardians inside the theaters and that respectable men and women, about to enter houses with children, were stopped by detectives and asked if the children were their own. People frequently objected to this high-handed procedure and told the detectives it was none of their business, which it wasn't, and then they generally was trouble."

"Mrs. O'Grady says she was instructed that members of her staff were to make no arrests," Mr. Cohen was informed, "but were to merely report violations to the commander of the precinct in which they occurred, who in turn was to consult you or the manager of the theater to find out if it was agreeable that an arrest be made. Do you know anything about that?"

**Police Consultation Denied**  
"I have no knowledge of any such order," Mr. Cohen replied, "nor did I make any such arrangement with the Commissioner or any one else in the department."

"Has any police officer consulted you before making an arrest?"

"No, never."  
Mrs. O'Grady's assertion that detectives attempting to enforce the law at movie houses were shown receipts for contributions to the police hospital fund, indicating that because of this no police action would be taken against them, was answered by Mr. Cohen in a formal statement. He said:

"As to the statement of Mrs. O'Grady that motion picture theater owners have made promises of contributions to the police fund so as to obtain immunity from the police, I can only say that its mere assertion is its own denial. We are interested in the police hospital fund only because we have had the wives of policemen tell us personally of the privations the policemen and their families undergo in times of sickness and stress and we as taxpayers feel it is our obligation to the community to assist this humanitarian and worthy cause."

"I met Mrs. Ellen O'Grady but once in my life, and that was in the latter part of March, 1919, before the New York State Legislature at Albany, when the Motion Picture Theater Owners' State of New York had introduced into the Legislature a bill relative to the admission of minors to motion pic-



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ture theaters throughout the State of New York (providing for two matrons in attendance at each theater the fitness and integrity of each matron to be passed upon by either the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children or the License Department of the City of New York) and also providing for the segregation of the children within the theater under the direction and control of these matrons, we pay for the services of the matrons."

"Mrs. O'Grady strenuously opposed this bill and it was her influence that resulted in the introduction of the bill withdrawing same on the floor of the Senate. The Organization of the Motion Picture Theater Owners of the State of New York then asked Mrs. O'Grady to support a bill it wanted to introduce to keep children out of motion picture theaters, whether accompanied or unaccompanied by parent or guardian. This she also refused to do."

**Open New Hospital Work**

The New York Hospital announced yesterday that its new department of urology, provided for in the will of the late James Buchanan Brady, universally known as "Diamond Jim," would be formally opened to-day.

Brady stipulated that the residue of his estate should be devoted to the establishment and maintenance of this department at the New York Hospital. He made many bequests, one of \$300,000 to Johns Hopkins Hospital, at Baltimore, and since his death there has been considerable speculation as to how much New York Hospital would receive. It is said that the amount at the disposal of the hospital will be more than \$500,000.

The department will be the first of its kind in New York City and the second to be established in this country. The department will be under the direction of Dr. Oswald S. Lowmley.

**Ponzi Lays Aside His Mop to Become Librarian of Jail**  
PLYMOUTH, Mass., Dec. 14.—The county jail received a new librarian when Charles Ponzi, quick-rich schemer, became an inmate. After Ponzi had finished his morning chores to-day he put his mop and broom away and began the work of cataloguing the books of the jail library.

As a young man just arrived in this country he had performed duties of this nature for a university in the South several years ago. Sheriff Earle E. Blake said the prisoner had merged well with his new surroundings.

## Boy, 13, Confesses He Is Master Mind In Brooklyn Thefts

Admits Riffing Cash Registers, Robbing Stores and Firing a Building; His Companions on Probation

Since November 15, when the offices of the Chevrolet Automobile Company, 7816 Third Avenue, in the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn, were entered by burglars and a cash register rifled, Third Avenue has had a reign of terror all its own, and the gossip has been wild, speculating as to the identity of the daring band that has been robbing stores of various sorts, and lastly, destroying a building by fire.

Martin Byrne, thirteen years old, and appearing to be a jovial and perfectly harmless person, appeared in the Children's Court, Brooklyn, yesterday and admitted he was the superior mind that had promoted the rifling of cash registers, the robbery of two hardware stores, a dry goods store and a meat market. Martin didn't seem to be a bit annoyed by the accusations, nor did he show signs of weakening when Judge Robert Wilkins sternly sentenced him to the House of Refuge for an indefinite period, explaining incidentally that Martin is "too dangerous to be at large."

Martin's brother, Robert, ten years old, and Thomas McCarthy, ten years old, of 8314 Third Avenue, alleged accomplices of the older boy, were put on probation. Martin admitted, the police say, that in most of the criminal operations he played a lone hand.

Martin lives at 7607 Third Avenue, and the offenses were committed in his immediate neighborhood. He was a pupil in Public School 102, and it was there the officers arrested him on Monday. Besides entering stores and taking various amounts, it is alleged, Martin also was accused of removing \$20 from a hiding place in his own home. The money belonged to his mother.

The arson charge grew out of a fire in a one-story frame building in the rear of the Byrne home. Martin, it was said, saturated the floor of the building with kerosene and ignited it. There appeared to be no particular motive for this offense, unless it was a desire for the spectacular. Martin testified that after the fire got a good start he experimented with a hand extinguisher in trying to suppress it, but failed.

In the cellar of the Byrne home detectives found where the boy had hidden the loot of his several robberies. There were found butcher knives, table knives, pocket knives, atlantes, flashlights, razors and razor blades in large quantity. Detectives believe this loot was obtained from the hardware stores of J. Blacharski, 7606 Third Avenue, and Peterson Brothers, 7905 Third Avenue.

**City Officials and Miller Have Conference on Traction**  
George McAneny, former President of the Board of Aldermen; F. H. La Guardia, President of the Board; Henry H. Curran, President of the Borough of Manhattan, and Herman A. Metz, heading a delegation from the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, all talked traction matters with Governor-elect Nathan L. Miller at the St. Regis yesterday.

Judge Miller and George A. Glynn, chairman of the Republican State Committee, with members of the Women's Republican State Executive Committee, will be guests of Mrs. Charles H. Sabin at her home, 14 East Sixty-second Street, at luncheon to-day.

## Bandits in Battle Fire in Direction Of 40 Children

School Crowd Scatters for Safety as Four, Exchanging Shots With Victims, Escape After Hold-Up

While four fleeing bandits and their two victims exchanged a half dozen shots on Eighth Avenue, in upper Harlem, at noon yesterday, more than two-score school children, who had previously witnessed the hold-up, scampered for places of safety. No one was hit, although the bandits, escaping in a motor car, were firing directly toward the crowd.

The four bandits, young and well dressed and all smoking cigars, had entered the Sheffield Farm, store at 2556 Eighth Avenue. They drew their revolvers on John McGinnis, a collector for the company, and George Fay, chief clerk, and took from McGinnis a leather bag containing \$2,000 and checks for several hundred dollars.

One of the bandits held the two victims, while the remaining robbers got into the automobile. They called for the fourth and he started toward the machine, after cautioning McGinnis and Fay not to make a "holier."

The bandits were well on their way when the employees of the milk store rushed out and began firing at the retreating hold-up men.

Three bandits held up the bartender and several patrons in a café at 323 Second Avenue early yesterday. One of the prospective victims dashed out of a door to seek a policeman and bumped into Patrolman Michael Falvey of the East Thirty-fifth Street station. Falvey quietly entered the saloon and, with drawn revolver, commanded the robbers to hold up their hands. One of the robbers fired a shot, which went wild, and then the trio fled. Falvey pursued them, firing several shots, one of which is believed to have reached its mark. Later he arrested a man who described himself as Angelo Malley, twenty-one years old, of 296 East Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn. The robbers got \$275 from the cash register of the saloon.

Malley was held for the grand jury in \$7,500 bail by Magistrate Morris Koenig in the Yorkville Court. Mrs. Frederick Knight, whose home at 731 Lexington Avenue, is only four doors from Fifty-ninth Street, discovered when she returned at 3:15 p. m. yesterday, after only an hour's absence, that burglars had ransacked the place. Two doors had been jimmied and the apartment was in confusion.

In spite of the short time they had to do the work, the burglars had packed a trunk, carried it downstairs

and got away with it. Mrs. Knight estimated that they took at least \$2,000 worth of her belongings.

## Four Captured in Auto After \$30,000 Robbery

Posse Blocks Road With Truck, Compels Surrender; Innkeeper Stabbed by Bandit Gang

Special Dispatch to The Tribune  
GOSHEN, N. Y., Dec. 14.—Four men accused of entering Glenwood Inn, Newburgh, yesterday, stabbing Dan Shields, the proprietor, and escaping with \$30,000 in jewelry and Liberty bonds in Shields's automobile, were locked up to-day in the county jail here.

The prisoners are Eugene Ryer, of West Haverstraw, N. Y.; John G. Verrie, of 429 East 117th Street, New York; Joseph D. Vespazio, of 414 East Ninth Street, New York, and James Carro, of 316 East 114th Street, New York. They are accused of assault in the first degree.

Ryer's pockets yielded \$4,414 in currency, \$200 in Liberty bonds and jewelry valued at about \$10,000. No money or valuables were found on any of the other prisoners. Three victims of recent hold-ups by automobile bandits in New Jersey visited the county jail to-day to see if they could identify any of the four. They failed to do so.

The automobile in which the robbers made their escape from the inn after the robbery belonged to Shields, the proprietor. A description of the car was telephoned throughout Orange and



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